

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-11, 13-27, 29-44 and 46-48 are pending in the present application and have been examined. All of the pending claims have been rejected over Funk, U.S. Patent No. 5,832,463. An Advisory Action of September 5, 2003 declined to enter the amendment to claim 1 sought in the Amendment in Response to Final Office Action of August 11, 2003. Applicants filed a Notice of Appeal on September 11, 2003. By telephone conversation of December 10, 2003, the Examiner agreed to consider Applicants' proposed amendments for purposes of appeal, which Applicants acknowledge with gratitude.

Applicants wish to bring to the Examiner's attention that the Submission of Formal Drawings dated August 11, 2003, contained incorrect drawings. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this submission from the record and revert to the originally filed informal drawings in considering Applicants' appeal. Applicants will file formal drawings once they have been prepared.

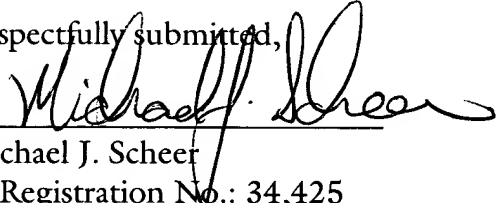
Accordingly, by this Amendment, Applicants make minor amendments to the specification and to claims 1, 37, 41 and 46-47 to put the application in a better form for consideration on appeal. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.116; M.P.E.P. § 1207. No new matter has been added.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the above amendments for purposes of placing the application in a better form for consideration on appeal.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

  
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